Equipment failures in power plants ..

530. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Sunday of 14th December, 1986 that the Programme Implementation Minister has complained about frequent and common break-downs of BHEL equipments in power-sector, resulting not only in loss of production but also in truly enormous consequential damages suffered by the economy as a whole; and

(b) if so, what are names of the power-plants using BHEL equipments and the number of hours for which each one of them was closed down and the loss in efficiency on each power plant caused due to such equipment failures during the last three years, yearwise, and in the current year till 31st January, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Renovation of old electric units

531. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of the 16th January, 1987 regarding Prime Minister's observation that inadequate care was being taken for renovation and modernisation of the old units and that they should be operated on professional lines;

(b) what specific steps have been taken by each State and other Electricity Board in this direction and what are the results achieved so far;

(c) when was the last plan for renovation etc. drawn out and what was its estimated cost at that time;

(d) what has been the progress of that plan in each State and Union Territory; and

(e) what are the revised estimates thereof, now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (e) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item. For the first time a comprehensive renovation and modernisation programme at a total cost of about Rs. 936 crores, including a Central Loan component of Rs. 500 crores, covering 34 thermal stations in the country has been taken up for implementation. State-wise details of the programme and the progress made so far (expenditure incurred) are given in the enclosed statement (*see* below). The programme is still under implementation; it is envisaged that on completion the resultant benefit of the scheme will be an addition in generation of about 7000 million units per year. To expedite the programme, comprehensive guidelines have been given to the State Governments and the State Electricity Boards, who have, *inter alia*, set up Task Forces and constituted Implementation Cells at the power stations for dealing exclusively with the works/activities under the programme. Measures are also being taken for upgradation of the skills of operation and maintenance staff at the power stations. According to the present estimate, the programme is expected to cost about Rs. 996 crores.